

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 2, Folder 9

December 14, 1950 -
March 26, 1951

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Newport, Rhode Island,

14 December 1950

Captain E. E. Hazlett, Jr., U. S. Navy,
109 North Boundary Street,
Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Dear Ibbey and Swede:

I was quite embarrassed to receive your Christmas card, as I had planned to write you before this. I am the one that has owed you a letter for quite a long time, and it is unfortunate that I haven't done something about it. It isn't the lack of desire to write which has kept me from writing, but I have a sore thumb -- writer's cramp -- which causes me to use my thumb as little as possible. Naturally, this thumb is employed in Government business.

I missed you very much at the Army-Navy game. I saw a number of our classmates there such as Swede Oversech, Fred Richards, Mark Sperry, Grot Wood, and several others whose names for the moment I have forgotten. All of us enjoyed the game very much indeed, not only because it was a Navy victory, but because the day was perfectly splendid and the football weather was ideal.

I expected to see you in your usual seats. Last year I sent word to you where my seats were with the hope that if I didn't find you, you would find me. You did not find me so I went down looking for you and merely discovered Louie Denfeld and Ozzie Colclough. Before the game last year I attended the buffet luncheon given by the Commandant of the FOURTH Naval District, and after the game I attended the cocktail party given by Horse Pennoyer at his quarters, and failed to discover you at either place. You can imagine my concern then when I received a letter from you somewhat critical of me for not seeing you. It is possible that you looked for me as much as I looked for you, but I would doubt it, else we surely would have collided.

This year I went to the buffet luncheon again given by the Commandant of the FOURTH Naval District, and did not see you or any other classmate there. After the game I had no where to go excepting to my hostess' home, which I did. For your information I was stopping out in Ardmore with my old friend of long ago who has now been widowed for the fourth time. Her husbands, unfortunately, seem to last a matter of months, and in every case each one has died from some physical breakdown such as a growth in the lung, blood poisoning, and what have you. They call this charming lady the "kiss of death," but I like

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her very much, as she really is quite charming. So far I have avoided her otherwise as one would the plague.

Every now and then I see your good friend and mine Spike Fahrion and his beloved wife Kay. They are a fine pair, and are very well thought of in this area. I gave a dinner for Admiral Beary when he left and invited Spike and Kay. Later on the Fahrions gave an extremely nice party at the Clambake Club and invited me, so on official matters we are even. However, I am too fond of them not to see more of them, except at dinners.

Weather conditions have been wonderful in this area, so I am trying to decide whether to go out to California for Christmas or to remain here. I haven't as yet made any decision. I went out there last summer by way of United Aircraft. It cost me about \$400. I don't mind spending \$400 for a months holiday, but I object very much to spending that much for four days holiday (Dec 22nd to Dec 26th), so unless I can get a free ride, at least half of the way, I probably will remain in Newport.

I appreciated the friendly remarks people were making about my work here. There seems to be no doubt about it -- the books have met with great response, and the movies which we have made of the Battles of the Coral Sea and Midway have been outstanding. It is very gratifying to do things and to discover that what you are doing is of such value as to contribute its share to the national effort.

I hope that Ibby and you are in fine health. I always hear that she is excellent, but I hear "ups and downs" about you. I hear the same thing about my Father, and it is difficult to know what is right. I called California last night and found that my Father was fine -- I assume therefore that you are also -- although there is no connection.

I hear nothing about Alice, but I presume that she is now an extremely lonely young lady with many beaux. It is too bad, in some ways, to bring children in the world, to educate them at great sacrifice, to grow to have an affection for them, and a desire for their presence, and then to have them suddenly marry and leave, as your older daughter has done, and as Alice will surely do. However, life being what it is, we have to take the good with the bad, and in the end the addition of two sons-in-law is not necessarily bad.

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The world situation is not good, but I don't think it is as bad as the press would have us believe. MacArthur has on his wall a quotation from an old Roman Historian -- "Commanders have the right to be advised by competent persons. If anyone thinks he is competent to advise, let him come with me to Macedonia." I think that is a very fair criticism of most of our present day writers and radio commentators. Who are they anyway!

I am feeling fine and my work is progressing slowly but surely. We are now in the Battle for Leyte Gulf, but won't be through for at least three years.

Let me wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! It is wonderful to have such friends as you.

Warmest personal regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES.

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Newport, Rhode Island.

15 December 1950

Mr. George Tyson,
c/o United States Legation,
Luxemburg.

Dear George:

Although I have been sometime in answering your letter, I want you to know how much I enjoyed hearing from you, and in observing that you are having a perfectly charming time abroad with your family. Although everyone misses you here, I would never return to Newport for any stay unless my family were with me. In other words, a man's family is of utmost importance in his life -- the wishes of his friends only secondary.

I was quite interested in your discussions of your experiences in England, your visits to Avon and witnessing Shakespeare's Plays, your meeting with Admiral Conolly who has now returned to the States and has assumed his function as President of the War College, your flat tires in Europe, and your final arrival in Luxemburg. You have many friends in Newport, and I was happy to tell them of your experiences. Everyone laughed with delight to see the good mental attitude that you are in.

Your wonderful sister-in-law, Perle Mesta, was here for a day or so, and a number of affairs were given for her, most of which I was invited to, but only two of which I could attend. I attended the reception given by Connie Moore at his re-built house which, as you know, is the old LaForge central cottage. The reception was excellent and Perle never looked better. I brought with me the President of the American Heart Association, Dr. Howard Sprague and his wife, and they were quite impressed with Perle. It was nice of Connie Moore to give this party, but certainly Perle deserves much from her friends. I have always stated that in my mind she was an extremely capable woman and would demonstrate excellent leadership in whatever post she were assigned. You probably recollect the many times I told you how pleased I was that she was excelling in Luxemburg.

I also went to dinner with the Dyers, where, by the way, I am dining tonight, in honor of Perle. The dinner was not large -- I think 12 -- but it was very nice, and Perle came dressed in one of her European creations which made her look very young -- of course, relatively she isn't very old -- and everyone gazed at her with great interest. She is now one of Newport's great prides, and one never hears anything but extremely friendly words about her.

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The Conollys have taken over, as I said above, and I feel sure that they will be of great value to the War College. Mrs. Conolly is a quiet, very friendly soul, who, with her four years of experience abroad, will fit into the Newport groove very smoothly indeed. Admiral Conolly -- Dick to you, sir -- is also taking over, and we can feel his hand in the College already. As I told you before, I have a great admiration for his brain and his military character, so I have little concern about the War College future.

Newport is getting ready for the Christmas holidays and for the New Year, and some affairs are already underway. The big New Years party appears to be one to be given by the Verner Reeds at their home on Narragansett Avenue. I have no doubt that it will be swell.

I may go to California for Christmas, but it has not as yet been definitely settled. The world situation seems to be getting worse. The President will speak tonight on that situation, and we may go into a partial mobilization, at least I sincerely hope so. I have wanted an increase in our armed might for a very long time now because anyone who has studied Stalin's work -- get a copy of "Problems on Leninism" by Stalin -- and you will see, just as everyone saw in Hitler's Mein Kampf, what the objectives of this Russian communist regime are -- world domination, and nothing less.

Bill Whitehouse, of course as you know, lost his Sybil. I was one of the pallbearers, and it was a very sad affair as Sybil was one of my very best friends. Bill has been away since the funeral, but should return to Newport today. He is a wonderful fellow, and I am quite sure that everyone will do what they can to make him forget the absence of Sybil at this very important time in the year - impossible thought it may be. Fortunately, he has a daughter and a son, both married, and both with children, so Bill can find his future in his grandchildren. That is the Lord's way!

Please give my very warmest regards to your beloved Marguerite, to Perle, whom I like much better than she likes me, and to Betty if she is there. I understand Bill is at Harvard.

If I can do anything for you here, a letter to me is all that is necessary. Best wishes for the Christmas season and for a Happy New Year! I am, as ever,

Your old Friend,

R. W. BATES.

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE Rhode Island,
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

14 December 1950

Captain William H. Ashford, U. S. Navy,
Commander, Fleet Logistic Air Wing,
Atlantic/Continental,
U. S. Naval Air Station,
Patuxent River, Maryland.

Dear Bill:

Thank you very much for your reply to my letter of the 7th. I am delighted to learn that you may have a plane flying to the Coast at that time, but as you did not expand on the speed of the plane I would be interested in discovering how many days it takes such a plane to make the Coast. Your Quonset Office indicates that if it goes via the Southern Route, it may take as many as three days, in which case I would not desire it at all. On the other hand, if it is a straight shoot to the Coast, I would be delighted to get on it.

Can you advise me concerning this matter and do you happen to know, roughly, whether you might have a plane coming back around December 26th?

You will be interested to know that our books on the Midway and the Coral Sea are about to be reprinted in book form, rather than in the pamphlet form as they are in now. This will mean a considerable amount of extra work for me as I will have to make a preface and an index, plus certain minor corrections, which have been discovered. The movie of the Battle of Midway is almost finished, and most of it is excellent. I feel quite sure you will be delighted when you see it. Everything contained in the book is, naturally, not contained in the movie, as there are no funds available to make a movie of that length. However, the movie takes almost three hours as it is. You might think that this was long, but the students at the War College who reviewed in the same day the Battle of Midway movie, as well as the Battle of the Coral Sea movie, did not seem to think so. The only kick I heard was that two in one day might be a little long. This was from a British officer. Our own officers seemed quite content.

With warmest personal regards to your wife and to yourself. Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I am, as ever,

Your old Friend,

R. W. BATES.

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Newport, Rhode Island,

21 December 1950

Vice Admiral Lynde D. McCormick,
Vice Chief of Naval Operations,
Room 4E528, Pentagon Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Lynde:

This letter is to wish you and Lillian a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I received a Christmas card from you the other day and this is in reply to your kindness in sending it, as I do not plan to send out any this year.

You certainly should have a Merry Christmas because in this morning's paper I note that you are nominated to the Senate for confirmation as a full Admiral. I couldn't have been more pleased as I feel that my judgment is being supported in high places. There is no doubt but that you are filling that job beautifully. I hear this from many sources, as you appear to be the correct brain to have vis-a-vis Admiral Sherman. It may seem strange to you, but I have no concern whatsoever concerning the conduct of Naval matters with you and Sherman pulling the strings. Ex-President Hoover's speech last night particularly stressed the part the Navy may play in future operations.

Admiral Conolly has taken over here at the War College, and I am quite pleased, because I think he is one of our very fine brains. I have been hoping that if things get serious in the oceans that both Conolly and Hill, now at the Naval Academy, will be employed in sea assignments of great responsibility.

I had a party for the civilians in town last Monday night here. Admiral and Mrs. Conolly came and met quite a number of people, as I had thirty two guests. Everyone seemed to be quite pleased with one another, so perhaps I have started to make the way a little easier for Admiral Conolly than it might have been. This may sound a little strange, but Admiral and Mrs. Beary were not particularly sociable, not because they didn't want to be, but because Alice was pretty sick and Don had had a form of phlebitis in Tokyo, and at that time had had warning of a possible heart attack. I saw a letter from Don yesterday, wherein he stated that Alice was quite ill with blood pressure of 230, with bodily retention of water, and inability to take her arthritic treatment of cortisone. She is a perfectly charming woman and it seems most unfortunate that she should have to suffer so. Naturally, this has an effect on Don because if a man loves his wife, and I have no doubt that Don does his, he can not but suffer himself. This could have an adverse effect on Don's heart. Let's hope that this will not occur!

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Things are progressing here slowly. The movie of the Battle of the Coral Sea is about finished -- that is the movie that you saw -- but it was full of TBF planes instead of TBDs. We have now succeeded in finding enough live film of TBDs to complete the picture properly. The movie of the Battle of Midway is also about finished, and will be shown here this month. I had both Midway and the Coral Sea, although not completed, shown to the student body here as a part of their study of World War II, and they were very impressed.

Admiral Spruance was here and asked if he could see the pictures. Naturally, the answer was in the affirmative. Admiral Spruance then told me that he thought the pictures were very fine. This was very gratifying as Admiral Spruance's opinion is worth a great deal to me. The Battle of Savo Island should be out tomorrow from the Government Printing Office. Captain Morison, the Historian, tells me that it is a very remarkable job, and others who have read it, such as Admiral Hewitt, are outstanding in their praise of this work. The movie script on it has been done by the Naval Photographic Laboratory and myself, and the Naval Photographic Laboratory is now studying it to discover how long it will take to shoot, and how much it will cost. It is not improbable that we will have to come to the GNO for money for this movie, as BuPers, who provided the money for the Coral Sea and Midway, may not have sufficient funds to produce the film.

Many of your old friends around here are always asking about you. I should have liked very much to have had you President of the War College, and I know that you would have done well here, but it is much better for the Navy that you are there as a Vice Chief of Naval Operations, and you can see for yourself that God looks out for his children. He is certainly looking out for you, and therefore, I feel that he is looking out for the whole American public. Someday, when they let me wear my Rear Admiral stripes, instead of Commodore, I will feel that he is looking out for me too. However, we won't discuss that here as it is perhaps a little selfish, and I am in a very Christmas-like mood.

I have sent you a cheese from Oregon for Christmas. It is a form of blue cheese, but is so remarkable as to have created an impression of marked superiority over all other American-made cheeses of the same types, and perhaps over European cheeses as well. It comes from L'Anglois, Oregon. Perhaps you know it!

Take care of yourself and give Lillian a good smack for me -- by a smack I mean a kiss, you dope! Once again, with best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I am, as ever,

Your old Friend,

RAFE.

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Naval War College,
Newport, Rhode Island,

21 December 1950

Vice Admiral Donald B. Beary,
820 Margarita Avenue,
Coronado, California.

Dear Don:

I am writing to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, but in doing so, I realize that my wishes are not falling on too fertile ground. I realize most sorrowfully that your beloved Alice is quite ill with high blood pressure and other ailments, to say nothing of her frightful arthritis. This makes it a tough Christmas for you, but perhaps, even despite this sorrow, there is sunshine in other areas of your life. Let's hope so!

Please give Alice my best wishes for a speedy recovery, and my hope that her illness will not persist too long, nor her pain be too great. She is a most courageous woman, with a deep affection for you.

Admiral Conolly has taken over command of the War College but, although he is a great friend of mine, I have seen very little of him since he has been here -- about 3 weeks. He has spent half of his time in Washington. I don't choose to bother him with my personal office matters, when he first must learn about the War College. Mine can wait!

You will be interested to know that I have been authorized two additional officers for my staff, but I haven't got them yet, as it is difficult to discover whom you wish. The Navy Department says that the only officers available who are any good are retired Rear Admirals, but the few I wrote to already had jobs and were reluctant to give them up. They indicated their definite desire to work in this assignment, and said had they only known about it a few months ago they would have seized the opportunity. Meanwhile, Admiral Conolly asked me to delay in choosing who I wished until he had taken over here, so all in all, my section has suffered somewhat.

The Battle of Savo Island will be out tomorrow. It came out before, but I rejected the whole printing and returned it to the Government Printing Office as unsatisfactory. The Government Printing Office was manful enough to admit the job "stunk", and they are re-doing the whole thing at no cost to BuPers -- at least that is my understanding. I will send you a copy of it if you wish to look at it, but you will not be allowed to

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retain it as the policy which was inaugurated when you were President still remains. Needless to say, I appreciated the free hand you gave me in writing the study.

The Leyte Gulf operation is progressing very slowly because (a) the staff is too small, and (b) the translations from the Japanese side are only just beginning to come in. We should have started on the translations over a year ago, but we weren't able to get anybody to do the work who was competent. We now have a very good translator, but he tries to be a historian, and my job consists mostly of endeavoring to get him to translate Japanese documents, instead of reading a bunch and trying to write a history for me. It will clear up in time.

Please give my regards to Baldy and Ethylene Jones, who are old friends of mine, and to any others who might be interested.

As for yourself and Alice, let me wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year again, and let me further say that many of your friends here who ask about you wish you the same. As ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES.

Naval War College,
Newport, Rhode Island,

29 December 1950

Captain W.H. Ashford, U. S. Navy,
Commander, Fleet Logistic Air Wing,
Atlantic/Continental,
U. S. Naval Air Station,
Patuxent River, Maryland.

Dear Bill:

Although I thanked you yesterday in person, I should feel myself very unfriendly if I didn't write you a letter in addition, to express to you my appreciation for your interest in assisting me in making my trip to California. Everything broke exactly for me so much so that it is almost surprising!

Going out, I had no difficulty, of course, in getting on the plane from Quonset to Patuxent; then to be your guest at dinner was a delightful experience, and needless to say I enjoyed it! I was glad to see that Betty looks so well, and Prince looked also very well, and was very friendly. I am quite fond of Labradors.

The trip to California was uneventful, excepting that we stopped at a Reserve Base--I think in Oklahoma City for fuel. The place we were supposed to stop at was fogged in. I thought your Plane Captain made a fine decision to go on to Oklahoma City and take on fuel there, rather than to retire to the East to some other base, and thereby lose about five hours.

After two and a half days in California I boarded your Constitution and stopped at San Diego for the night. I was given a car and chauffeur and nice quarters. I went on tour, visiting Vice Admiral and Mrs. Beary in particular, that evening. The next morning at about eight o'clock, the Constitution took off for Jacksonville, stopping at Dallas en route, where I was once again given a car and a driver, and looked over the Naval Base there. It is a Reserve Base, but seems well handled.

Upon arrival at Jacksonville, we landed at Green Cove Springs, rather than at the Naval Air Station. I was met by Captain Chauncey Moore who was the Base Commander. He took care of me thereafter, and brought me to a party that they were giving at the Club, so that was also enjoyable.

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Upon arrival at Patuxent, you very kindly flew me over to Anacostia. I inquired as to whether there were any planes there going to Quonset and the answer was "no". While I was endeavoring to make a decision as to what to do a Chief Aviation Pilot came in and asked if I wanted a flight to Quonset. I was delighted, and arrived in Quonset on schedule, after having stopped for five minutes at Mustin Field and at Floyd Bennett Field. The boat was available. I came to Newport in the boat with two War College fliers, who promptly drove me home, so it appears to me that my entire trip, for which you are fully responsible, was extremely successful in the transportation end.

I consider this all a very nice Christmas present from you, and I appreciate your friendly interest. At the same time I wish to commend you on your Logistics Command. Your men have a very high morale; are very proud of their assignment, and of their accomplishments. You seem to fit in very well with Burke's article on discipline in the Navy. If you haven't read it, read it. If you can't get a copy of it, a note to me will send you a copy.

With warmest personal regards, I am, as ever,

Your old Friend,

R. W. BATES.

0292

Naval War College,
Newport, Rhode Island,

9 January 1951

Dear Jimmie:

I don't know what you are doing today, but judging from the address given to me by BuPers it would appear as if you may have some kind of business assignment. If you have, it is possible that you may not like what I am about to suggest to you. I sincerely hope this is not true.

Here is the proposition. I have been working at the War College since the end of 1946, writing the critical analyses of the major battles of World War II. In these battles I study documents, both allied and enemy, and from them write the true story of the battle. From this true story I interpose from decision to decision criticisms of the conduct of the Commander. In other words, the rightness or wrongness of his decisions at the time, based on information at the time. I have completed Coral Sea, Midway, and Savo Island. The books have been so successful that movies have already been made of the first two, and the movie of Savo Island is now under advisement. I have now been directed to do the Battle for Leyte Gulf, which will take not less, in my mind, than three years, other things being equal. Midway and the Coral Sea both took two years.

I have a staff at present of myself, a Commander, Chief Yeoman, and a Yeoman Second Class. I have been authorized to increase my staff by two additional officers, one of straight line and one of line aviation. BuPers has recommended that I go to the retired list, as active duty officers are hard to obtain, and suggested flag officers.

I am interested in knowing whether you would be interested in taking this assignment. I am sure that you would come back to duty as a Commodore and would draw the pay and allowances of a Rear Admiral, lower half. I am not making you a definite offer yet, as I must be assured that Admiral Conolly will approve your assignment. I don't see any reason why he wouldn't as we all have the greatest admiration for your performance of duties in the Pacific.

I should appreciate a prompt reply from you as I am anxious to get somebody who is competent. However, I don't want to get anyone. The man I get must be good! I am on duty as a Commodore, although I am a retired Rear Admiral.

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With best wishes to you and to Mrs. Carter for a Very Happy
New Year! I am, as ever,

Your Old Friend,

R. W. BATES,

Commodore James B. Carter, USN (Ret).
Care of Holmes and Narver,
824 South Figueroa,
Los Angeles, California.

0294

19 January 1951

Dear Doctor Sprague:

This is merely a report to you to tell you that I accepted your advice, flew out to California over Christmas, remained there three days, and then flew down to Coronado, California, thence to Jacksonville, Florida, and back again to Newport, remaining over night at Coronado and Jacksonville.

Your estimate of my condition was absolutely sound. The trip was very enjoyable. I astonished my family by my good health, and all hands seemed to feel that your eminence in the heart field was very well merited indeed.

For your information, the Naval Hospital disapproved of my trip to the Coast, but when I showed them your letter, Captain Andrews said, "You should ignore our recommendations in the matter, because when a Doctor such as Doctor Howard Sprague, disagrees with us we bow to his superior judgment, and consider that our recommendations should be forgotten."

I tried to get my brother's cardiograms out on the Coast, as he said he saw no reason why you shouldn't have them for your information, but so far I haven't got them. I discovered, however, that he had been given a test at the University of California to determine whether he had fat in his bloodstream, and the answer was a definite negative. I am wondering if this is the same test which you are planning to give me at Harvard?

I hope that you have completely recovered from your respiratory ailment. So far I have succeeded in avoiding such misfortune, but I don't guarantee that I shall succeed throughout the Spring.

With warmest personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Dr. Howard Sprague,
1180 Beacon Street,
Brookline 46, Massachusetts.

R. W. BATES.

0295

15 January 1951

Dear Burrowes:

I noted with a great deal of interest that you have been assigned to command the Battleship WISCONSIN. What a command! I want to congratulate you on this assignment, and to congratulate the Navy Department for choosing a man such as you for this command. It seems smart to me to take a man from the "tactics" desk and give him a flag ship assignment, just as they did your predecessor, Captain Chandler, when they gave him the DES MOINES. That tactics desk has advantages!

Possibly some intelligent Admiral wants some good tactical advice, not only regarding the operations of our own forces, but also regarding those of the combined forces. Perhaps you will find the use of your new book of value in this assignment.

Thanks very much for all that you did for me. There is no doubt that you have always been extremely helpful, and my office has profited thereby. At the present moment I am taking up a little difficulty with your successor concerning my translator, Mr. Kawakami. Mr. Kawakami seems to misunderstand that I must have translations up here in such volume as to be able to write a fair and unbiased story of the Japanese participation in the Battle for Leyte Gulf. Mr. Kawakami is a good man, and I should hate to lose him. Nevertheless, we must have translations.

In this connection I wrote to Captain Rodgers and suggested that it might be possible to obtain some reserve officer translators -- that is, have them called back to active duty now, preferably to assist Mr. Kawakami. Maybe some of them are on duty already in other than translating assignments, but can be made available.

If you are in Washington still, perhaps you can help me out on this. Anyway, once again best wishes for a Happy New Year, which I feel confident your new command will insure for you.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Very Sincerely Yours,

R. W. BATES.

Captain Thomas Burrowes, USN,
Room 4C539 National Defense Building,
Washington 25, D. C.

0296

5 February 1951

Dear Sergeant:

I want to thank you very much for thinking of me and for sending me that illuminating letter on your viewpoints concerning the Korean situation and the Marine Corps, in particular.

In general, I would say that you are quite right. Possibly in your position as a recruiter, it is necessary for you to take a little stronger attitude toward your Corps than normally would be expected, but I wouldn't suggest running down the Army or the Air Force in writing to anyone other than in your own service or the Navy. We all understand the terrific problems which have faced the Marines in particular, and we have the greatest admiration for their accomplishments in Korea. Their remarkable exploit of retiring from that Reservoir and bringing back all of their equipment with them, to say nothing of a considerable number of Army men, will go down in history as a brilliant military maneuver, which could only be accomplished by adequate leadership and by the confidence of the rank and file in that leadership, in their Corps, and in themselves. Certainly as you infer in your letter, the Good Lord had a friendly eye on the First Marine Division!

The interview which you submitted is really a "laugh" and indicates the great sense of humor which you personally have. It is these "laughs" and the ability to laugh in times of stress which, in a way, distinguish a disciplined organization from one which is not disciplined. In time of stress one can rarely laugh unless one has confidence in the situation.

I imagine that you are doing a great deal of good there in Oklahoma City, not only for yourself, but for the men you interview.

We here in Rhode Island have been having our share of snow recently so that we get a little training in the rudiments of frostbite, but when our frostbite gets a little troublesome we generally remove it with a "Hot Toddy." It seems that such "medicine" is not available in Korea.

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Many thanks for your thought of me, and for your letter, which I have taken the liberty of showing to several Marine Colonels, to the President of the War College, and to one Army Paratrooper, all of whom found it intensely interesting and amusing.

I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES,
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy (Ret).

MSgt. John J. Morgan, Jr., USMC,
United States Marine Corps,
Southern Recruiting Division,
Headquarters, District of Oklahoma City,
Room 326 Federal Building,
3rd and Robinson Street,
Oklahoma City 2, Oklahoma.

0298

5 February 1951

Dear Ross:

Thank you for your letter of January 21st. I should have answered it earlier, but I have been down in Washington trying to get those two extra officers which you assisted me to obtain for my allowance, but which Admiral Conolly requested that I sleep on until his arrival. He has now authorized me to get to the additional help, and I find it hard to do. I have some offers - none have as yet been accepted by me.

I was delighted to hear of Mary Lawrence's wedding. I have no doubt that she was a lovely bride. I've always liked the shape of her head and I'm pleased as punch that you are as happy about this wedding as evidently she is. It is a nice thing to bring your children up and have them marry happily -- at the same time it is rather a blow if they marry the wrong people, or if their marriage will take them too far away. This is particularly applicable to daughters. You haven't said so here, but it is my understanding that Mary Lawrence's husband has gone or is about to go to Korea, so I imagine that Mary Lawrence herself will not be too far away from the Cooley's fireside for sometime.

I think that eighty people are quite enough for a wedding. I have no doubt that the expenses of any wedding are very, very high. Eighty people can do a lot of damage to a lot of dollars if the dollars are put out in lawful form -- that is, in champagne, etc., etc.

You are quite right about Bill Whitehouse. He has been very blue about the loss of his Sybil, and we have gone to great lengths to restore himself to himself. He is now in South Carolina; from there he is going to Bermuda, I think, and thence possibly to California. I shall advise him to look you up, should he arrive in San Francisco.

Thank you very much for your help as regards Jocelyn's son, Bob. The Navy had very little to offer him. I called Ralph Riggs and tried to get some help, but unfortunately, the boy having been classed as 1-A, had little choice. He finally enlisted in the Air Force and was even lucky to get in there as they closed the enlistments about the next day. Young Bob wants to be a flier. He tried hard to make the Navy, but it would seem as if the Navy wasn't particularly anxious to get those that wanted to join. I am sorry because I thought Bob would have done well in the Navy. He likes sailing and athletics. All of this would have been helpful. However, he is now at Lackland Field, Texas, wherefrom

0299

press reports they are having some sort of mess, so he may be having his troubles.

Newport is pretty quiet. There are some activities going on, but we have recently suffered from a pretty heavy snow and a biting cold, which has extended down to Washington, D.C., and even farther south. As a consequence, when I arrived in Washington, I got my annual cold, which I had succeeded in avoiding in Newport.

Your old friends are always asking about you and Adelaide. Two of them - that is, Ben and Kitty Mouse Cook - are now en route to the Coast. Don't be surprised if they look you up. Also, don't be shocked if Norman and Tamara Whitehouse also look you up, for they are going out to the Coast presently.

My "Battle of Savo Island" is not out, but the mailing list is so terrific in view of the vast expanse in the Navy and the considerable number of changes resulting, that we are having difficulty in mailing it. However, I have been promised that it will go out this week. If you can do so, I should appreciate it if you would direct the officers of your command to study this book, as well as the two previous ones, Coral Sea and Midway. In fact, the Naval Examining Board has already told me that it won't be too long before questions from these books will be included on the promotion examinations for the higher officers.

Give my best to George Murray who I regret to say will be retiring presently, according to the book. He has had quite a career, with many ups and downs, but mostly ups. I am quite fond of him.

There have been several changes in the War College recently authorized. Steve Barchet is leaving and going to be the Commanding Officer, Naval Amphibious Force Base, Little Creek, Virginia. Henry Eccles is going to Europe to be the Logistics Officer on the Staff of Admiral Carney. Don Felt is wearing his new Rear Admiral's stripes. Captain Chamberlain is to relieve Captain Barchet and Captain Lyons of the ORISKANY is the leading candidate for Henry Eccles job.

With warmest personal regards to yourself and Adelaide, I am, as ever,

Your Old Friend,

R. W. BATES.

Rear Admiral Thomas R. Cooley, USN,
Quarters #2, Yerba Buena Island,
San Francisco, California.

0300

6 February 1951

Commander Roy de S. Horn, USN(Ret)
U.S. Naval Institute
Annapolis, Md.

Dear Roy:-

I was very interested when I received your letter of November 2nd, 1950, wherein you commented upon the possibility of having the Naval Institute prepare a textbook on International Law. I thought the matter over for a while, and then I thought it wise to forward your letter to the responsible authorities in the War College, and particularly, to those who had an interest in the International Law instruction field. It took some time for it to pass around the College, as a number of officers had a crack at it. The general opinion now is that such a book should be prepared.

Vice Admiral Conolly, who is President of the War College, is desirous of having the War College make an official reply to the Naval Institute. I am therefore writing to you, in advance of this official notification by the War College, in order that you will know what the official decision of the War College will be, and in order that you will know that your letter has not been entirely forgotten. Anyway, if you have been embarrassed by the delay, I am the one to blame - not the War College.

I personally am delighted that the Naval Institute is keeping abreast of the needs of the Navy, and this letter of yours, on International Law, shows me that the right man is still in the right place.

With warmest personal regards to you, I am as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

0301

12 February 1951

Dear Larry:

The other day when I was in Washington I was informed that the Chief of Naval Operations had seen fit to designate you as the new Chief of Naval Personnel. I was delighted, and I think everyone that knows you is equally delighted, not only because you should have been a Vice Admiral long ago, but because the Bureau of Naval Personnel is an extraordinarily responsible division, having the morale of the entire Service in its hands. You understand the Service; you have been a student of war as well as of personnel '10 these many years, and the jobs which you have been assigned to do in personnel, such as the Reserve Program, you have excelled in.

I feel that it is a fine thing for the Service that you have been given this recognition, and I am sure that you will enhance the Bureau rather than the Bureau enhance you. You are a capable bird!

Gertrude, of course, is so lovely that she will fit wonderfully in this responsible assignment. There are so many duties which fall on the wife of a Bureau Chief, and especially to the wife of the DCNO (Personnel), that it takes some one like Gertrude to handle them adequately.

If you don't know it, I am working here at the War College, writing the critical analyses of the major naval battles of World War II. I have completed the Coral Sea, Midway, and Savo Island. The first two have been out sometime. The latter will make its appearance this week. I wish you would look them over and then prescribe them for instruction purposes in your wardrooms. The study of command is vital!

We have made a fine movie of the Coral Sea, which will be out presently, and an equally fine movie of Midway, which will take somewhat longer to complete. Both of these will go hand and hand with the books.

The study of Savo Island is quite critical and according to Admiral Kent Hewitt, is "fascinating, incredible, monumental." Lets hope so!

I don't know when you take over your new duties, but whenever you do, my good will, of course, goes with you. With warmest personal regards, I am, as ever,

Your Old Friend,

Rear Admiral Laurence DuBose,
Commander Cruisers-Destroyers, PacFlt, R.W. BATES.
c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, California.

0302

20 February 1951

Dear Casey:

You'll be interested to know that I contacted Captain Joseph J. Rochefort, USN (Ret), file number 54196 at Pearl Harbor, and have received a letter in return in which he accepts, evidently with considerable pleasure, the prospective assignment on the Special Projects Section Staff here. I have therefore forwarded an official letter today from the President of the War College requesting orders for Captain Rochefort. This letter was drawn up as suggested by you in your last letter to me.

I consulted, by letter, the Chief of Naval Intelligence, Admiral Felix Johnson, in regard to the release of Captain Rochefort. Admiral Johnson was very favorable to the idea, recommended Captain Rochefort very highly, and stated that should a national emergency arise, it was not unlikely that he might want to seize him. This is quite satisfactory to me.

I now have the job of discovering a competent retired airman. Both Conolly and Felt are opposed to George DeBaun, so I shall have to discover some one else.

Many thanks for your assistance in the case of Rochefort. Perhaps you have another idea on an aviator. Your ideas are always good!

Best regards,

Your Old Friend,

R. W. BATES.

Rear Admiral C. L. Green, USN,
Room 4E552, Pentagon Building,
Navy Department,
Washington 25, D. C.

0303

12 February 1951

Dear Johnny:

I don't know when the shift between you and Larry DuBose is to occur, but lest it be very soon I'm writing to thank you for all of your assistance to me in my work here throughout your tour of duty as Chief of Naval Personnel. No one could have been more understanding nor helpful than you and your entire staff have been, and if my work produces any results, which I hope it will, you and your staff are, in a large way, responsible.

I feel that you have done a swell job in a most difficult assignment as Chief of Naval Personnel, and your place will be hard to fill, even with my good friend Larry.

I have no doubt that you will do well also in your new assignment. It is unfortunate to have to drop your star, but in the end you will get it back again, so I wouldn't allow that to concern me too much. Perhaps one of these days the Chief of Naval Operations will authorize both you and Farhion, in view of the great importance of destroyers, to wear an additional star. It is my understanding that he has authority to do so. I thought that his recent advancements of Kiland, Briscoe, and Art Davis to Vice Admirals, were excellent. Now, if I can get him to replace your star and to put an extra star on my shoulder marks, which star has been repeatedly promised me over the years, I would feel that Admiral Sherman had done a very fine job indeed!

With warmest personal regards to yourself and many thanks again for your assistance, and your understanding of my problems, I am, as ever,

Your Old Friend,

R. W. BATES.

Vice Admiral John Roper, USN,
Chief of Naval Personnel,
Bureau of Naval Personnel,
Navy Department,
Washington 25, D. C.

0304

20 February 1951

Dear Lynde:

You'll be delighted to know that I have finally succeeded in finding an officer of competence to fill in one of the two new billets which have been authorized for my section here at the War College. This officer is Captain Joseph J. Rochefort, USN (Ret), presently on active duty in the Pacific Fleet Evaluation Group, who will be available in April or May of this year. I need Captain Rochefort very badly, and I have spent a lot of time discovering him, because Leyte Gulf is an extraordinarily complex operation. The vast number of ships concerned, the weakness of the reports, and so forth, necessitates very considerable research and understanding of the problems of command at sea.

I am working almost entirely on the Allied side for the present, and am collecting translations for the Japanese side. As Captain Rochefort is a Japanese language officer, he can be of enormous assistance to me in checking the translations and, in general, working out the Japanese thought processes. So, I feel that I am extremely fortunate that he has accepted this job. He states it is right down his alley. In addition, he can be of great assistance to the War College in general, in view of his Intelligence background.

The official request from the President of the War College will be over your desk presently, and I hope that you will give it your merry OK so that Captain Rochefort's orders will be issued in good time.

Things are going very well up here. There are a considerable number of important changes being made, but I don't think that any of us really kick at them because the infusion of new blood and new thoughts is always stimulating to thinkers. If we are not thinkers at the War College we shouldn't be here!

I hope that this letter finds you and Lillian in very fine health, and that you are enjoying your responsibilities and your social activities as well.

When Art Davis was made a Vice Admiral the other day, I wrote him a letter and told him that I was delighted that he had been discovered there in that mass of papers in the JCS. Art wrote a humorous letter back in which he indicated his pride at having been advanced, but he had a typical Arthur Davis remark: "The only reason I got promoted was that I didn't have any friends who knew any Senators."

With warmest personal regards, I am, As Always,

Your Old Friend,

^{D.}
Rear Admiral Lynde McCormick, USN,
Vice Chief of Naval Operations,
Room 4E628, Pentagon Building,
Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

R. W. BATES.

0305

19 March 1951

Dear Sam:

Thank you very much for your extremely complimentary article concerning my work here at the Naval War College. Frankly, I enjoyed your address "Faith in the Historian" very much indeed, and it indicates clearly why you have maintained the highest standards in yourself as an historian.

Very frankly, I should like to obtain some more of the reprints of this article, and I should appreciate it if you could advise me where I could write and how much the charge would be, so that I may obtain about a dozen of them for my family and for a few pertinent friends. Please don't attempt to do this yourself.

It is always nice to see you, and I look forward to your return to this area with interest.

Many thanks again, Old Friend. With warmest personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES.

Captain S. E. Morison, USNR,
44 Brimmer Street,
Boston, Massachusetts.

0306

Naval War College,
Newport, Rhode Island,

20 March 1951

Dear Teddy:

It has been a long time since I received your note, but you mustn't think that I have forgotten you, because I have not. However, yesterday afternoon my queries bore fruit, and I finally received the lapel buttons which you wish to have. I am, therefore, enclosing one of them.

Things have been going along very well in Newport. I have been living a reasonably comfortable life, rather than being frozen out. In fact, I think the weather in Newport has probably been better than the weather in Palm Beach. Today, it is raining; yesterday the sun was shining, and as today is the last day of Winter, and as Newport does not have a Spring but jumps rapidly into Summer, I would say that we are now heading for a charming summer.

Needless to say, you and Neo have been greatly missed! You are an extremely popular and friendly couple who have always contributed your fair share, not only of good will to your friends, but of good will to the community. I always remember how much you and Neo worked during the past war, and of the excellent service you rendered the community. Both of you can be proud of your war experience, and both of you can be proud of the fact that all of your friends appreciate it, and love you for it.

I wouldn't worry too much about Europe and Korea. We are in a war which blazes here and there into a hot spot, but so far has been controllable by the Western Nation's firemen. It is our hope that we will be able to do so for a much longer time.

I see your Brother Bill quite frequently - in fact, he wants to take me to Providence next Saturday noon to a luncheon, and I may go. Polly is fine also, and both are enjoying the Winter very much. Sunday, Gordon Douglas appeared, and today Robert Golet. Gordon is up in Boston about his arthritis and is returning to Palm Beach on Wednesday. Robert was up here about opening up his house, and about doing something for Trinity Church - something in memory of his wife, Roberta. We all enjoyed seeing them very much.

Johnny and Sophie Richmond are giving a dinner tonight, which I will attend. They have recently returned from Palm Beach where they had a very enjoyable two weeks. They said it was fun, but cold.

Bill Whitehouse is back and on the first day he seemed a very low. However, his association with his friends and their deep interest in him have done a great deal, and I would say that in one week he is almost his old self. What a wonderful fellow he really is!

Looking forward to seeing both of you here presently, and with hopes that your Winter season in Arizona has been what you had hoped, I am, as ever,

Your Old Friend,

R. W. BATES.

0307

22 March 1951

Dear Dr. Ford:

I have been in communication with Captain Morison, President of the American Historical Association, who recently delivered an address on "Faith of a Historian" before the Chicago meeting on December 29th, 1950. I have asked Captain Morison for some copies of this address, and he has kindly sent me two. He has advised that I write you for further copies, which I am now doing.

I enjoyed Captain Morison's address very much, and, in particular, enjoyed his comments about me and my work here at the Naval War College. The work is very hard, but extraordinarily interesting, and I hope will be of value to high command. Therefore, it was with a great deal of emotion, and may I say, satisfaction, that I read Captain Morison's tribute.

Should you have any copies, I would like as many as a dozen, and naturally, will be delighted to pay a reasonable price for them.

With many thanks for anything you may do, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES,
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.).

Dr. Stanton Ford,
Secretary, American Historical Association,
Library of Congress Annex,
Washington, D. C.

0308

26 March 1951

WMGM
711 Fifth Avenue
New York 22, New York

Gentlemen:

On January 17th this year, I received a letter from you signed "Pauline Keesvik", wherein I was informed that I was to receive a refund of the \$3.00 which I had forwarded as early as last September, in order to obtain magic towels.

Over two months have now elapsed since the receipt of your letter, and the \$3.00 appears to still remain within the coffers of WMGM. Now that Easter is over and we have all decided to turn over a new leaf, would it not be possible for WMGM to do likewise and refund me the \$3.00?

Very truly yours,

R. W. BATES,
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy.

0309